Tax evasion by industrial houses

1618. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pelased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the industrial houses are indulging in wilful evasion of various Government tax;

(b) if so, what are the total number of cases under Income Tax Customs and Excise laws that are pending adjudication or otherwise against TELCO Ltd. and Essar Gujarat Ltd.;

(c) what is the break-up of amounts involved casewise;

(d) what are the details confirmed by adjudicating authorities, casewise; and

(e) what action Government are taking to realise the disputed amounts where Courts have granted stay orders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Seizure of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

1619. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of prohibited narcotic drug and psychotropic substances seized in the country during the last three years till date;

(b) what is the number of persons including foreigners arrested for various offences under the NDPS Act, 1985 during the same period; and

(c) what is the number of acres of illicit opium cultivation and the number of acres of illicit cannabis cultivation identified, located and destroyed during the same period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) The quantity of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances seized in the country during the last three years till date are furnished in the table below :

(Quantity in Kgs.)

Drug Seized	1990	1991	1992*	1993* (Upto Jan.)
Heroin	2193	622	1146	6
Opium	2114	2145	1865	64
Morphine	6	6	35	–
Ganja	39090	52633	62100	138
Hashish	6388	4413	6484	482
Methaqualone	2141	4415	7475	3379
Cocaine	1	0·008	0·420	–
Phenobarbital	–	–	54430 (Tabs.)	–

(b) Details of persons arrested under the NDPS Act is as follows :

	1990	1991	1992*	1993* (Upto Jan.)
No. of persons arrested including foreigners	4302	5300	12244	71
No. of foreigners arrested	234	93	106	5

(c) Details regarding destruction of illicit cultivation of opium poppy and cannabis by all the enforcement agencies in the country are as under :

Drug Seized	1990	1991	1992*	1993* (Upto Jan.) (Provisional)
		(Area in Acres)		
Opium Poppy	39	46	12	Nil
Cannabis	1907	1013	1219	Nil

*(Figures for 1992 & 1993 are provisional)

Auction of Fishing Trawlers by SCICI

1620. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Shipping Credit Investment Company of India Limited conducted an auction of a number of fishing trawlers, owned by various fishing companies, on 22nd December, 1992, in order to recover their outstanding dues;

(b) what are the details of the auctioned trawlers together with details of total financial liability accrued against each of the respective trawlers and the net sum recovered against each through the said auction;

(c) whether SCICI Limited had fixed any reserve price against each trawler to ensure recovery of its outstanding dues on account of each of them; if so, details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not fixing the reserve prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available and permissible under the Rules.

Issuance of UTI Cheque

1621. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA :
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Unit Trust of India in January, 1993 issued a cheque for Rs. 99,92,175/- by mistake and the recepient contacted UTI in this matter;

(b) whether UTI officers were totally unconcerned and ordered the recepient to return the same instead of requesting him;

(c) if so, what are the details of persons responsible for sending such a cheque; and

(d) what steps are being taken to streamline the functioning of UTI in public dealing ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (c) It is reported by the UTI that a cheque for Rs. 99,92,175/- was inadvertently issued in January, 1993 to an investor towards refund of excess amount against purchase of units under Unit Scheme, 1964. The wrong amount on the cheque was due to a computer error, but the cheque was retrieved and cancelled.

(d) UTI has an Investor Relation Cell for maintaining better investor relations and assisting investors to sort out any complaints. UTI has also issued instructions to all staff to be more diligent in payment settlements.

Increase in Small Savings

1622. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any targets for small savings have been set for the year 1992-93;